



**United States Border Patrol
San Diego Sector
Public Information Office
2411 Boswell Road
San Diego, California 91914-3519
(619) 216-4182**



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 28, 2001

Border Patrol Checkpoints Nab Cash and Meth

\$40,000 Cash and Over 12 Pounds of Meth Seized

Temecula, California - Someone had obviously taken extraordinary precautions. The cash had been wrapped in tinfoil, covered in liquid soap, and sprinkled with powdered detergent. They had even added a final layer of plastic and tape. Then, the eight individual bundles of cash were carefully hidden in luggage stowed in the rear of the vehicle.

When agents at the I-15 checkpoint near Temecula casually asked the vehicle's occupants where they were going, the nervous passenger blurted out "New Jersey." Minutes later, the two were standing outside their rented vehicle, undergoing intensive questioning, when a Border Patrol "detector" dog alerted to the narcotic-tainted cash in the vehicle. Shortly before officers of the Southwest Task Force arrived, the U.S. citizen occupants decided that they didn't know anything about the cash. At about 8:00 PM, after signing the appropriate forms, they were free to leave, but less the \$40,000.

Earlier in the evening, agents watched as a nervous driver of a Nissan Sentra slightly overshot to the primary inspection at the I-5 checkpoint near San Clemente. When agents asked what model of car he was driving, he answered, "It's a '91 Honda." Agents directed him to the secondary inspection area for further investigation.

"Cisco," another Border Patrol dog alerted the agents to four tightly wrapped bundles hidden in a fabricated compartment in the dash of the vehicle. More than 12 pounds of methamphetamine (meth) valued at \$84,700, were inside. The narcotics, vehicle, and the driver, a Mexican citizen legally in the U.S., were turned over to agents from the DEA.

-End-

Video available